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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2259-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Akihiro HIKICHI et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 1771
	)	
Application No.: 09/901,722	)	Examiner: N.L. Torres-Velazquez
	)	
Filed: July 11, 2001	)	
	)	
For: NON-ASBESTOS FRICTION	)	Confirmation No.: 7732
MATERIAL	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a Final Action. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement includes a certification as specified by Section 1.97(e).

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from the Institut National De La Propriete Industrielle in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Copies of the listed non-U.S. documents and search report, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

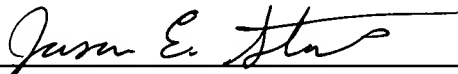
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

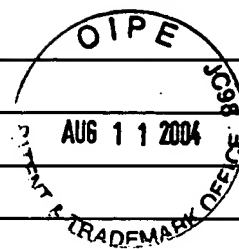
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 11, 2004

By:   
Jason E. Stach  
Reg. No. 54,464

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	03327.2259-00000	Appln. No.	09/901,722
Applicant	Akihiro HIKICHI et al.		
Filing Date	July 11, 2001	Group:	1771



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,994,247	11/30/1999	Jubb et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
EP 0 710 628 A2	05/08/96	EP			
EP 1 081 406 A2	03/07/01	EP			

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Search Report (in French), Institut National De La Propriete Industrielle, Paris, France dated June 18, 2004

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce